(d) what will be the capacity of these two pipelines?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) is executing a 1.164 million tonne per annum (MMTPA) throughput capacity Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) pipeline of about 600 Km (approximately) length from Vizag to Secunderabad at an estimated cost of Rs. 490 crore (approximately). The project is scheduled to be completed by August 2003.

GAIL also propose to lay a 670 Kms (approximetely) long LPG pipeline from Mangalore to Coimbatore *via* Mysore at an estimated cost of Rs. 600 crore (approximately) which is scheduled to be completed within 36 months from the date of its approval. The detailed feasibility report for the project has been prepared.

Loans to Agricultural Sector

†*340. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that commercial banks have been directed to disburse 18 per cent loan to agriculture under primary sector;

(b) if so, the details of the total amount disbursed as loan to the agricultural sector during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(c) the percentage of this loan amount against the total loans disbursed during the above years; and

(d) the per cent of branches of these banks working in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the standing guidelines of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), all domestic commercial banks are required to lend 18 per cent of their net bank credit to the agricultural sector.

(b) and (c) Data relating to outstanding agricultural advances of public sector and private sector banks as on the last reporting Friday of March 1998 to March 2001 are given below:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(i) *Public Sector Banks*

March	Amount Outstanding (Rs. Crore)	% to net bank credit
1998	34304	15.72
1999	40078	16.28
2000	46190	15.77
2001	53685	15.65

(ii) *Private Sector Banks*

March	Amount Outstanding (Rs. Crore)	% to net bank credit
1998	2746	9.7
1999	3286	9.5
2000	4239	9.1
2001	4659	9.6

(d) As on 31st March, 2001, 49.69 per cent of the branches of scheduled commercial banks are functioning in the rural areas.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Discontinuation of I.A. flight from Kolkata to Singapore

2425. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines flight from Kolkata to Singapore has been recently discontinued;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government are aware that this defies logic since the load factor in the flight was reasonably high and the discontinuance would adversely affect the interest of the Eastern region?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Indian Airlines twice-weekly A-320 flight between Kolkata and Singapore *via* Bangkok was discontinued w.e.f. 25th March, 2001 due to poor loads. As against the capacity of 145 seats, the average number of passengers per flight during the last three years was:—

Year	No. of Passengers
1998	29
1999	33
2000	33